

MENTOR MICHIGAN DIRECTORY

VAN BUREN COUNTY

This listing for Van Buren County is organized first by programs that serve the entire county, and second by programs serving a specific city within this county. The cities are listed alphabetically.

COUNTY-WIDE

Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan

Kathryn Rossow

1213 Oak Street

Niles, Michigan 49120

Phone: (269) 683-5464 x. 302

Fax: (269) 683-1220

Email: volunteercenter@qtm.net

Program Description:

Volunteer Centers recruit, train, and place volunteers in nonprofit organizations throughout their service area. They are inclusive, serving all nonprofits and residents—they do not limit their service to a particular issue, group of people, or type of activity. Michigan's Volunteer Centers are all prepared to assist mentors find organizations where they can volunteer. Volunteer Centers often take a leadership position in convening organizations and individuals to find solutions to complex community issues. They live their belief that people enrich their own lives and strengthen their communities through volunteer service.

COUNTY-WIDE CONTINUED

Big Brothers Big Sisters, A Community of Caring

Peter Tripp

605 Howard Street

Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008

Phone: (269) 382-6800

Fax: (269) 382-4108

Email: petertripp@bbbscommunity.org

www.bbbscommunity.org

Program Description:

Big Brothers Big Sisters, A Community of Caring provides one-on-one mentoring programs in a school-based or community-based setting. In the community-based program, the mentor and mentee share activities they both enjoy such as fishing, baking cookies, going to sporting events, watching movies, etc. These matches generally get together two to four times a month. In the school-based program, volunteers meet with the child at his/her school once a week for an hour. They usually talk, play games, or work on homework. Volunteer mentors are expected to make a nine month commitment.

ExperienceSeniorPower.com

Tony Fama

Maria Madeline Project, Inc.

24630 Scotia Boulevard

Oak Park, Michigan 48237

Phone: (248) 398-6438

Fax: (248) 692-0391

Email: tony.fama@experienceseniorpower.com

Program Description:

Through ExperienceSeniorPower.com, children and senior citizens learn computer and job skills together. Children receive an adult role model through these "adoptive grandparent" relationships and seniors have the opportunity to contribute their life experience and knowledge. This program includes one-on-one, group, team, and e-mentoring activities. Senior volunteers are expected to make a one year commitment during morning, afternoon, or weekend hours.

COUNTY-WIDE CONTINUED

Michigan Youth Leadership Forum

William Milzarski

320 North Washington Square, Suite 250

Lansing, Michigan 48913

Phone: (877) 499-6232

Fax: (877) 499-6232

Email: MilzarskiW@Michigan.gov

www.MYLF.org

Program Description:

The Michigan Youth Leadership Forum involves 35 high school students that have disabilities. The students are integrated with other students and adults with disabilities to learn leadership, social skills, and citizenship. The program involves one-on-one, team, and peer mentoring and takes place during one week during the summer. The program is managed by the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns. Volunteers are expected to commit to one full week in the summer and follow up activities.

Volunteer Centers of Michigan

Judy Tymowicz

1048 Pierpont, Suite 3

Lansing, Michigan 48911

Phone: (517) 492-2430

Fax: (517) 492-2444

Email: tymowicz@mivolunteers.org

Program Description:

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MENTORING COLLABORATIVE

Mentoring Collaboratives are community-wide resources for mentoring programs, people looking to become mentors, and youth who want a mentor or need access to mentoring services. A Collaborative serves as a coordinating body for mentoring activities in their service area, which could be city-wide, county-wide, or regional in focus. They provide awareness and education around mentoring issues and work to ensure that all age groups are represented and provided with mentoring services. Collaboratives are made up of the mentoring programs in their service area, and they meet regularly to share best practices, learn about new trends in the field, partner on projects, and learn from one another.

Van Buren Mentoring Roundtable

Andre Reddick

Covert Public School

35323 M-140 Highway

Covert, Michigan 49043

Phone: (269) 764-3703

Fax: (269) 764-8598

Email: alreddick@hotmail.com